

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ A method of manufacturing a cushioning package containing an article to be packaged, ~~as in claim 11~~

said method comprising the steps of:

using a cushioning sheet made of flexible resin sheets that are placed one on another, heat-sealed and divided into a group of independent small cells in the shape of a strip;

forming an article storage space by folding the cushioning sheet along a crease crossing said small cells, the crease being transverse to a longitudinal direction of the small cells, the article storage space being enveloped by the small cells, and a side of the cushioning sheet opposite to the crease being open;

disposing an article to be packaged in the article storage space through an article storage opening that serves as an entry portion of the article storage space; and

closing the article storage opening by adhesion while filling air from one side of an end of each of the small cells to inflate the small cells that the crease crosses;

the aforementioned steps of forming, disposing and closing being performed in the recited order,

~~wherein said cushioning sheet is an elongated sheet moving in a longitudinal direction through each of said processes, said step of forming comprising~~ is comprised of folding the cushioning sheet in the longitudinal direction and adhering edges of the overlapped cushioning sheet, except for a portion of the edges that becomes an article storage opening, said step of adhering further comprising the steps of:

providing the folded cushioning sheet with a longitudinal direction seal at the open side along the longitudinal direction; and

forming an air passage in communication with each of the small cells at the open end along the longitudinal direction of the sheet,

said step of disposing ~~comprising~~ is comprised of moving the article along the longitudinal direction of the cushioning sheet, and placing the article inside the article storage space, and

said step of closing ~~comprising~~ is comprised of disposing a tip of a nozzle inside the air passage along the longitudinal direction of the cushioning sheet and filling air in each of the small cells via the air passage through the nozzle.

13-16. (Canceled)